

God does not make us people who expect things ready. It shows us that the solution in our difficulties does not come through the suggestions of the world, but from a spiritual effort. Forgiveness and humility. And simultaneously, creativeness and diligence, and through prayer and the spiritual life, but also through the finding of those ways which, with the grace of God will help us to pass from the cross to the Resurrection. Furthermore, "everything is possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23).

### **The Church interprets**

We are able to live all these things in the Church. The tradition of our faith, the word of the Apostles and of the Fathers, the experience of the ecclesiastical life make the Gospel the authentic guide. The word of God is not interpreted with our mind as the sole criterion of truth and inspiration, but by the Church, which safeguards us from mistakes and the pride that only we know. The word which bears fruit in the heart, becomes love, truth, a new beginning, not only for our own self, but also for those around us. We need a pointer, a lighthouse toward the kingdom of God. We need however also, the decision that our heart become good earth. No one is saved on his own! Fr. T. M

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 2020, SUNDAY OF THE 7TH**

**ECUMENICAL COUNCIL,** Philip the Apostle of the 70, one of the 7 Deacons, Theophanes the Confessor, Bishop of Nicaea, Holy Martyrs Zenais and Philonilla, Nectarios, Arsakios, Sisinius and Philotheos Kokkinos, Patriarchs of Constantinople, Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, Kenneth

**TONE OF THE WEEK :** First Tone

**EOTHINON :** Seventh Eothinon

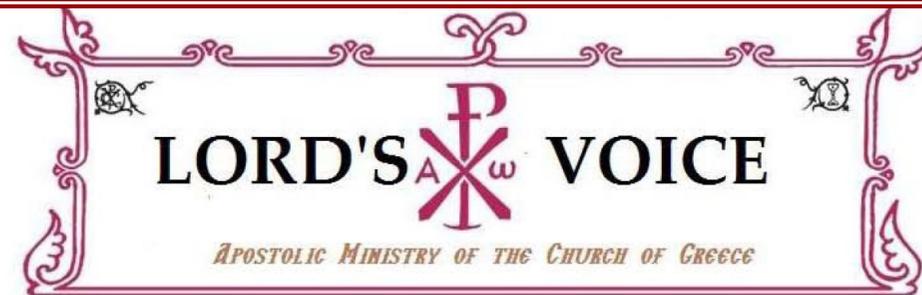
**EPISTLE READING :** St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15 1

**GOSPEL READING :** Luke 8:5-15

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 2020, Luke the Evangelist ,Marinos the Martyr**

**EPISTLE READING :** St. Paul's Letter to Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18

**GOSPEL READING :** Luke 10:16-21



**68<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OCTOBER 11 2020 PAMPHLET # 41 (3515)**

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

"The seed is the word of God" Christ tells us, in of the most beautiful parables which are written down in the Gospels. With this phrase, He reminds us that the word, which is a gift of God to man, makes us build a new life through the heart, if it is speaking about God and leading to God.

### **Where do we belong?**

Christ describes to us the reactions of the people who are hearing the word of God, the Gospel of the Church. Thus, He poses questions to each one of us, to which category he belongs. Are we only perchance listeners whom the devil takes the word from our heart, resulting in it vanishing? Are we good-dispositioned listeners, who, whereas we are rejoicing, because the word gives spiritual values, when the time for us to be tried comes, if a new way for us to see life, our trials and relationships has been born in us, we ascertain that there is no root in our heart, resulting in us living and acting as if we have not heard it? Are we those listeners who allowed the word to bear fruit, we want to implement it in our life, however, we ascertain that the thorns, in other words, the cares for survival, wealth, and the agony for its preservation, the enjoyments of life, in the end, choked even

## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (LUKE 8:5-15)

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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what the word began to bear fruit with, crushing our soul? Or do we belong to the good and fruitful earth, in the heart that has virtue and kindness, in order to produce fruit through the longing for the relationship with Christ? Do we become like the trees which came forth from the mustard seed, and overshadows and feeds the birds of the world, and helps them to continue their flying, more restfully, in other words, all those who in the end, are seeking rest, meaning, and a cause to fly to heaven?

### **The Gospel comforts**

The word of God, the Gospel, becomes a shade that comforts

from the sun and from the burning heat of this world. This means that it does not allow man to be choked up in the millstones of the attacks of culture, on the one side, and of his own self, on the other side. God wanted us to be living in the time and manner of our culture. However, its demands and the models that it poses, tire us. With its "it musts" our culture takes us far away from God and makes us live as if He does not exist. At the same time, our own self, with its thoughts, with the demands of our character, and our needs, in cooperation with the devil, attack us, pushing us to want to have, on our own, the control of our life, without faith in the Resurrection. The word of God, however, cools our souls. It gives us the opportunity to evaluate which are our real needs, and it opens the path for a spiritual life, in other words, with the perspectives of eternity, which does not allow us to get tired from the attacks of this age.

### **We're not alone**

The Gospel feeds the mind and the heart of man, leading him to Christ and to the relationship with Him. With love, the joy of faith, the feeling that man is not alone, the certainty of God's providence, the surpassing of sin and of evil, even if this seems invincible, comprise perspectives, and spring from the adoption of the word of God as the spring which gives forth life. We are fed by the Gospel, and we are able to bear fruit, and give a hundredfold fruit, since from us, life will come out also for the other people. And this is, in the end, the meaning which opens up to the life of the Church. The word is not for one or for a few, but spreads to the earth of our neighbor, rejuvenating our world.

The Gospel and the life that it suggests, become cause for us to set out at each moment from the beginning. For us to proceed in the difficulties of life with patience. So that we don't get disappointed from people. From the lack of understanding. From the harshness of the age. From the impasses, which cause depression. The word of